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LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT CONDEMNS U.S. RIGHTS POLICY

PY160122Y Asuncion HOY in Spanish 15 Apr 78 p 11 PY

[Text] Paraguayan Sen J. Manuel Frutos Pane, deputy secretary general of the Latin American Parliament, has given us a copy of Resolution No 1 approved by the Human Rights Committee of the Latin American Parliament which met from 16 to 18 March in Paramaribo, Surinam. A transcription of this document follows:

As the agenda prepared beforehand provided only for the analysis of the document on human rights recently presented by the Department of State to the U.S. Congress, this analysis was carried out and the following resolution was issued:

Resolution No 1

The Human Rights Committee of the Latin American Parliament has decided to reject most of the statements of the above-mentioned document, part of which is a report which the U.S. State Department submitted for the consideration of the U.S. Congress on 3 February 1978 on the subject of human rights in Latin America. The rejection is based on the fact that this document is biased and the preconceived ideas stated in it contribute nothing to the clarification of the situation of our continent but rather show the distorted idea which the United States has of our countries.

In addition, the committee has decided to reciprocate the interest of the United States in this matter--that is, to say, the members of this parliament will seek and find information regarding the situation of human rights in the United States, with special attention to discrimination against minorities and itinerant workers, in order to facilitate the implementation of the appropriate measures.

In any case, this committee has echoed the proposal of Surinam's representative in emphasizing the need to protect the right which the peoples have to self-determination, in the same manner that a human being has a right to freedom and respect from other human beings.

The above-mentioned conclusions were reached after listening to all participants who gave lengthy explanations of the situation of human rights in their respective countries.

[Asuncion ...RIA in Spanish on 15 April also carries the text of the resolution and further reports that the Executive Board of the Human Rights Committee of the Latin American Parliament was comprised as follows: President, Juan Antonio Onofre Bikker of the Netherland Antilles; vice president, L. Mungra of Surinam; secretary, Daniel Jackson Freeman of Costa Rica]

JUNTA ISSUES REPORT ON PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT

PY171935Y Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Apr 78 p 1 PY

[Text] The general secretariat of the military junta, in charge of the air force this month, has released the following report:

"Considering that the public is naturally interested and logically expecting to learn of important events and features regarding the process for national reorganization, the general secretariat of the military junta reports:

"1. The structure and functioning of state powers are defined in the statute for the process of national reorganization and in Law No 21,256: The Regulation for the Functioning of the Military Junta, the National Executive Branch and the Legislative Advisory Commission.

"2. These documents are fully enforced; therefore, the appointment of a retired high officer of the armed forces to hold the presidency of the nation and the time for his appointment are the responsibility of the armed forces through their respective commanders in chief, within the military junta.

"3. Therefore, this resolution is the exclusive competency of the military junta.

"4. In the future, any information regarding this issue will be channeled through the general secretariat on duty, which is the natural channel for information on the military junta."

VIDELA RECEIVES HIGH SPANISH NAVAL OFFICER

PY172218Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 17 Apr 78 PY

[Text] President Jorge Rafael Videla today met with the chief of the Spanish Navy general staff, Adm Domingo Arevalo Pelluz. This illustrious visitor, who arrived yesterday in response to a special invitation of the Argentine Navy, came to see the president at government house together with Argentine Navy Commander in Chief Admiral Massera, the Spanish ambassador in Argentina, and the director of the Argentine national defense school. General Videla greeted his visitors and spoke with them for several minutes. The high-ranking Spanish officer, who will carry out specific activities in Argentina related to his position, will begin a series of visits today to various installations of the Argentine Navy.

'COMMITTEE OF 25' SPLITS WITH ADMINISTRATION, WORK COMMISSION

PY140247Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0225 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr--The struggle for leadership of the Argentine labor movement came to a head today when the brand new Administration and Work Commission [Comision de gestion y Trabajo--CGT] virtually deprived the "Committee of 25," which claimed to be the "interim commission of the Argentine labor movement," of its authority. The explosive rupture resulted from a disagreement between the two groups regarding the conditions under which the labor sector would send a delegation to Geneva.

The disagreement emerged during recent meetings which Labor Minister Tomas Liendo held with representatives of several sectors to hear their opinions regarding this matter.

While representatives of the Administration and Work Commission told the minister of their decision to attend "although no immediate solutions have been found" to the labor movement's problems, "the 25" took a more radical position, according to labor sources, again submitting the problems which affect labor attendance at the international meeting.

The two sectors had the opportunity during the day to expound their ideas and the reasons for them, and one of the consequences was a communique in which the Administration and Work Commission criticized the attitude of International Federation of Free Trade Unions [ICFTU] leader Enzo Frizzo, who fully supported the "25" during his recent trip to the country. The document indicates that "without rejecting the value of the solidarity of international organizations for the Argentine labor movement, we are surprised at the partisan way they minimized support for one faction of the Argentine labor movement. And it was also a surprise that no information was sought from the intervened organizations, which make up 70 percent of the Argentine labor movement."

The communique adds that "we believe it would have been better if the opinion of the majority of Argentine workers had been sought and the labor movement's principle of self-determination had not been overlooked."

Finally, the commission indicates that "we doubt that this report [on Frizzo's visit] will be approved by the other members of the Executive Council of ICFTU."

This assertion was refuted by the paper workers leader, Fernando Donaires, one of the visible leaders of the "Committee of 25," after this group met this afternoon at the headquarters of a metropolitan union to evaluate the meeting, which will continue tomorrow, with Minister Liendo. Donaires said that tomorrow he will distribute a copy of a resolution signed by ICFTU head Otto Kernstein, which acknowledges the "25" as the interim leadership of the Argentine labor movement while the General Labor Confederation continues to be intervened. Spokesmen of the two labor sectors confirmed the break and indicated that it occurred after failure of talks on coexistence for the two groups.

BRIEFS

OCEANOGRAPHIC SURVEY LAUNCHED--The navy commander in chief has reported that the oceanographic ship Islas Orcadas will make a new oceanographic survey of Argentina's continental shelf and the Antarctic. The ship will leave port today at 1100 to begin a project which will demand approximately 60 days. The main area of interest lies to the north of the Weddell Sea and to the east of Scotia Ridge. [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 5 Apr 78 p 9 PY]

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT--The 1977 gross domestic product [GDP] equalled 1974 figures, reaching 18.9 billion pesos. Thus, the highest values were registered in 1974 and 1977. In 1975, the GDP was 18.6 billion pesos and in 1976 it was 18.1 billion. It has reached 13.5 billion pesos in 1978. These data were obtained from charts released yesterday by the industrial development secretariat. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Apr 78 PY]

BANZER SAYS HE DOUBTS PINOCHET'S SINCERITY ON SEA OUTLET

PY180211Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1907 GMT 17 Apr 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 17 Apr--Bolivian President Hugo Banzer has charged his Chilean colleague with not having a genuine intention of cooperating with Bolivia in the negotiations which it initiated to achieve a sovereign sea coast. The president stated that Pinochet's government only showed an apparent wish, but in truth there was no intention of facilitating things to help solve Bolivia's landlocked situation. The statement was published today by the La Paz progovernment newspaper HOY.

Banzer also stated that Bolivia's 100-year old landlocked situation is an insult to international justice and to the right which a nation has to have a sovereign seacoast.

The 100th anniversary of the war in which Chile fought Peru and Bolivia and in which these two countries lost territories on the Pacific coast, which today belong to Chile and as a result of which Bolivia was left without a maritime coast, will be next year.

Banzer justified the breaking of relations with Chile, which was ordered by the Bolivian Government on 17 March 1978, after 3 years of negotiations with Chile to recover an outlet to the Pacific Ocean. He said that the negotiations undertaken with Pinochet in 1975 were deadlocked because of the compensations requested by Chile, in exchange for a corridor to the sea which was requested by Bolivia, and because of Peruvian requests. The Peruvian requests included that Chile (which was victorious in the 1879 war) should give Peru (one of the losers of the war) a major compensation.

ARMED FORCES TO REPLACE SOME WEAPONS, IMPROVE TRAINING

PY150205Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1951 GMT 14 Apr 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 14 Apr--It was reported here that the Bolivian Armed Forces will replace their light military equipment, but no decision has been made on the purchase of heavy weapons and planes.

The army is studying the purchase of mortars and light artillery, the improvement of its communications system and the purchase of equipment necessary for assault troops, it was said. Garrisons and military installations, especially on the borders, will be included in the renovation of military equipment.

It was emphasized that "the treatment of soldiers will be improved through better uniforms, rations, care and relations with superiors." It was added: "Nevertheless, Bolivian military personnel will continue the tradition of very short haircuts because this regulation reflects military discipline."

The study plans of military colleges and training schools will be brought up to date in accordance with logistic and tactical requirements for the comprehensive training of the soldier and future officer.

The armed forces still maintain that the first job of the military is the country's development.

Therefore, the military high command has invested $2 million during the last few months in the purchase of heavy machinery for military engineering regiments.

Villalpando Denies Purchase Plans

PY150206Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Army Commander Alfonso Villalpando has denied that Bolivia may purchase war material to strengthen the potential of its equipment and armaments. In a disclosure to the press, Villalpando maintained that the armed forces are always evaluating their need for material, but that at the present time there is no intention of making any purchases.

Villalpando also reported that he has inspected several garrisons in the interior, but that at the present time he does not intend to inspect border garrisons. He would not give further details to the press. Finally, Villalpando indicated that current military activity is of a routine nature, in accordance with the military's very specific constitutional responsibilities.

LAES SUPPORTS PROTEST OF U.S. TIN SALE

PY151645Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Members of the Latin American Economic System [LAES] have supported Bolivia in its protest over the U.S. announcement to sell a considerable portion of its strategic tin reserves. This decision was obtained by the Bolivian delegation which attended the fourth session of LAES's national council convened at the Venezuelan capital.

Alberto Valdez, who headed the Bolivian delegation, also referred to the activities of the committee created in order to make possible the development of economic cooperation for 2 years. He said that Bolivia offered to host the international forum on water [acuacultura] which would be financed by the UN development program.

During the latest session of the National Economic and Planning Council, the project for the installation of a volatilization plant at the Machacamarca mining center was approved, in accordance with terms approved by the board of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia.

The technology to be used in assembling the plant will be Soviet, and it will allow a reduction of the costs of smelting low-quality tin which comes from the mining companies of Huanuni, Colquiri, San Jose and Catavi.

BRIEFS

FRENCH BUSINESS DELEGATION--The French business delegation which is visiting Bolivia yesterday visited the government palace on a courtesy visit and was received by President Hugo Banzer. Later it was received by Planning and Coordination Minister Juan Lechin Suarez. The aim of the French visitors is to get to know the economic and financial situation of Bolivia and its development projects. They will also have meetings with private sectors in La Paz and Cochabamba. [La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 5 Apr 78 PY]

RUMORS OF DISBANDING OF PARTIES DENIED

PY140252Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Apr 78 p 5 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Deputy Jose Bonifacio, National Renewal Alliance [ARENA] leader in the Chamber of Deputies, denied yesterday that political parties will be dissolved 60 days before the [15 November] election if the government finds that ARENA is in no position to defeat the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB].

Bonifacio said: This would distort the purpose of the election, upset the electors and elicit distrust from the people. It wouldn't make any sense at all.

As to the suggestion made by [former Castello Branco cabinet member] Marshal Cordeiro de Farias that the parties be disbanded on the day of the November election, Bonifacio also discounted this possibility "because we would then be on the eve of the congressional recess and because President Geisel would not want to use his revolutionary powers or call a special session of Congress to approve this measure."

Bonifacio added: "Marshal Cordeiro's suggestions merit attention and study, and many of them can be implemented. Yet, I believe that in this case he made an error of observation."

Bonifacio believes that the political parties will not be dissolved during the Geisel administration, "but this could be implemented during Figueiredo's government."

Planalto Palace spokesman Col Rubem Ludwig also reported that he had not found "any indication" of the source of the information--which has been circulating in congressional circles--that the national government is considering dissolution of both ARENA and the MDB.

Ludwig said yesterday afternoon that he learned about the rumors through the newspapers, and that he could not confirm what source could have released those rumors. A reporter then asked Ludwig if the government were going to make a categorical denial.

"I have no information about those rumors," Ludwig said.

MAGALHAES PINTO INTERVIEWED ON DOMESTIC, FOREIGN POLICY

LD131605Y Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 9 Apr 78 pp 53-54 LD

[Mauro Calamandrei undated Rio de Janeiro interview with Brazilian Senator Magalhaes Pinto, candidate for the chairmanship of National Renewal Alliance: "A Breath of Freedom"]

[Excerpt] [Magalhaes Pinto] The internal situation in Brazil has changed radically. Our country is now peaceful and free from terrorism and subversive groups and the time has come to turn the page and normalize national life with a return to democracy and freedom.

[Mauro Calamandrei] Colonel Toledo Camargo, speaking on behalf of President Ernesto Geisel, told me that the present regime would not agree to cancel the emergency laws unless some of them were incorporated into the constitution. Do you think that the 1967 constitution would have to be amended before it could be used again?

[Magalhaes Pinto] That is the basic difference between me and President Geisel or his candidate, secret service chief Joao Baptista de Figueiredo. Our country does not need any special laws. The 1967 constitution already contains all the necessary powers to deal with any emergency. The state is strong by nature whereas individuals are weak: Therefore the individual's human and civil rights must be protected and extended.

[Mauro Calamandrei] There has been increasing tension and disagreement between Brazil and the United States in recent years. Do you think that in the future Brazil should rely mainly on its special alliances with Germany and Japan?

[Magalhaes Pinto] The United States has always been and still is our closest associate and best investor. The fact that the U.S. Government is placing particular importance on the defense of human rights at the moment is not a reason for reducing our ties but for increasing them.

[Mauro Calamandrei] If you are elected president what will be the first measures you introduce?

[Magalhaes Pinto] I will dissolve the two parties (Brazilian Democratic Movement and National Renewal Alliance) which were artificially created by decree and I will allow the parties which the people feel to be necessary to be formed freely. The only restriction would be on the reintroduction of the Communist Party because this represents a subversive force for our country and is a direct threat to freedom and democracy.

MDB CHAIRMAN STATES PARTY POSITION ON UPCOMING ELECTIONS

LD1141535Y Lisbon EXPRESSO in Portuguese 8 Apr 78 Review Section p 7 LD

[Helena Salem undated interview with Ulysses Guimaraes, chairman of the Brazilian Democratic Movement: "'We Will Only Stop Struggling When Democracy Is Reestablished in Brazil'"--place not given]

[Text] EXPRESSO: How do you view the current political situation in Brazil?

Ulysses Guimaraes: The Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB] is struggling for democratic normality in Brazil. This is the party's raison d'etre, its mission. And it has been struggling as hard as it can to this end. We in the MDB believe that the promises which have been made so far relating to democratic normality to the effect that the nation will be heard through the medium of elections--principally by voting for the president of the republic and state governors, which are administrative posts of major importance--have not yet materialized. They remain mere intentions. Elections are coming up again 15 November but the people will not be voting for these principal administrative posts. President Geisel is to announce openings, including the dispatch of messages to the national Congress with a view to constitutional changes, that is, alterations to the text of the constitution. The MDB is waiting. We want to view the texts objectively and if it is clear that they represent progress on the path to democratic regularity then we will vote for them. If not, the MDB will vote against them. In any case, the MDB's struggle for the reestablishment of democracy in Brazil will cease only when it comes about.

A Great Victory

EXPRESSO: What are the MDB's opportunities for action in the present Brazilian political framework?

Ulysses Guimaraes: The MDB's opportunities are basically of two kinds: first; electoral opportunities which are very broad. In 1974 the MDB won a great victory practically throughout the country. Senators were elected in 16 of the 21 states (senator is the most important post for which it is possible to vote). It also increased its representation considerably, not only in the Chamber of Deputies but also in the legislative assemblies of the most important states, namely Rio Grande do Sul, Rio De Janeiro State, Sao Paulo, Amazonas and Acre. It was the majority party in all of these states. This also occurred in the municipal chambers of the capitals where the prefects are appointed by the president of the republic. For example, in Sao Paulo and Porto Alegre, both with appointed prefects, the opposition has the majority in the municipal chamber.

Second: The activity of the party proper is most evident in the national congress. In Congress we act on all subjects which we deem important. The press records all our actions in Congress. The opposition has difficulties, however, with radio and television. The opposition therefore has to operate under these conditions. However, it has been guided by fearlessness in trying to honor its pledges to the electorate.

New Parties and the Mobilization of the People

EXPRESSO: How are the initiatives connected with the creation of new political parties in Brazil going? What is the MDB's position on this problem?

Ulysses Guimaraes: A lot is being said about this, but there has been nothing concrete so far. I will say that the MDB's position is as follows: We believe that the party is an effect, not a cause. We must have democratic normality in Brazil, and, above all, fully functioning democracy, but after the parties have emerged into real action in the way that parties in democratic countries should and do act, without conditions, without limitations.

If it were now proposed to create new parties we would be in favor of this, although we believe that this should only happen following the principal event, the cause, the source of all, that is, democratic normality which will insure that the future parties will not be limited in the way that the current ones are. At any rate, we are categorically against initiatives for the creation of new parties this year because this is an election year. We are nearing the eve of the elections, and there will not be time to create and organize parties before the elections. This would cause great perplexity and confusion among the electorate. The rules of the game have not changed in that way. The electorate is conditioned at the moment to vote for the National Renewal Alliance [ARENA] or the MDB. Therefore, there is no sense in mobilizing public opinion to new parties because, in the first place, we do not know whether this is going to happen, and, secondly, as I have said, it would be a nuisance factor which, in fact, would be an advantage to ARENA and a disadvantage to the opposition. The question is a simple one: Those with the government will vote for ARENA and those against will vote for the MDB. And this is the form in which the problem should be seen at the next elections.

EXPRESSO: Last year there was a substantial increase in popular opposition to the regime in Brazil. Could you tell us a bit about this movement of resistance and struggle for redemocratization which is currently developing among various classes and social strata virtually throughout the country?

Ulysses Guimaraes: I have already talked about the MDB's situation. It is very good, and we are confidently expecting good results in the elections. I am certain there has been an increase in popular support and enthusiasm. [paragraph continues]

There have been demonstrations of opposition on the part of students and the clergy--who, although not members of the MDB, have shown a desire to participate, a desire to see the political situation in Brazil normalized at last. This is also happening among intellectuals, artists and, now, laborites. These demonstrations are clear and obvious and signify that these sectors of society are showing their opposition and their desire for participation.

Figueiredo's Candidacy

EXPRESSO: How do you view the candidacy (or nomination) of General Figueiredo for the presidency of the republic?

Ulysses Guimaraes: The general's candidacy is an ARENA candidacy proposed by President Geisel. We in the MDB are not going to evaluate the candidate, because so far there has been no political declaration by Joao Baptista de Figueiredo. He should be appearing at the ARENA convention soon; only then will we embark on an objective criticism of his proposals. But, basically, we think it is the system that is wrong in the following sense: The election should be direct, as it has been in Brazil for many years since the proclamation of the republic in 1889, with occasional hiatuses in which democratic normality has ceased to function. Because we believe that in a country like Brazil which is presidential and not parliamentary, in which the president has immense powers and, above all, in a concentrated presidential government like the Brazilian one--in which, proportionately, the president of the republic has greater powers than the President of the United States (in the latter the states have wide autonomy and the federation functions much more than in Brazil), it is essential that a post of this kind, which affects the life of every citizen, housewife, working person and student, should be chosen by means of popular participation. This is why we criticize the method of choosing the supreme political executive of the nation. We believe he should be chosen by the people, in free and direct elections.

BRIEFS

UEKI LEAVES FOR VENEZUELA--Mines and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki leaves for Caracas, Venezuela tonight. During his 4-day visit, he will hold talks with his Venezuelan colleague regarding the purchase of oil and the export of iron ore, in accordance with the agreement signed by Presidents Ernesto Geisel and Carlos Andres Perez during the visit of President Perez to Brazil. [Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 17 Apr 78 PY]

MEAT EXPORTS--Rio Grande do Sul State exported 50.77 million kilos of beef, pork, horse meat, mutton and poultry to 42 countries in 1977. The United States, which bought more than 19 million kilos, was the leading importer. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Apr 78 PY]

COSIPA STEEL PRODUCTION--The Sao Paulo Iron and Steel Company [COSIPA] will produce structural steel for the shipbuilding industry. COSIPA can now make 25-meter-long sheets 3,950 mm wide and 50 mm thick. COSIPA will try to meet the demands of the Brazilian shipbuilding industry for 1978, that is, 211,000 tons of sheet metal. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 Apr 78 PY]

MICROWAVE LINK--Belo Horizonte--Haroldo Correa de Mattos, president of the Brazilian Telecommunications Company, will dedicate the Belo Horizonte-Brasilia microwave link tomorrow. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY]

EL MERCURIO APPLAUDS APPOINTMENT OF FERNANDEZ

PY141448Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0314 GMT 14 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 13 Apr--According to EL MERCURIO's Friday edition, the appointment of lawyer Sergio Fernandez as interior minister reflects a new vitality in the Chilean military regime. The dean of the Chilean press reiterated that the minister has been entrusted with the task of proposing the new national cabinet. The newspaper stated that this is an indication of progress toward the nation's institutionality, as announced by the president. The paper stated that President Augusto Pinochet will undertake the more important decisions himself and will find the time to draw up and conduct his government's general strategy, while entrusting the difficult operational and tactical tasks demanded by everyday issues to the interior minister.

The newspaper stated: "Such a work method presupposes the establishment of a very direct cooperative relationship not only with the president, but also with the interior minister himself."

Finally, the paper stated that the government also seeks "the synchronization which has had such successful results in the economic program," and which is now being implemented "conscientiously in the political sphere."

BAR PRESIDENT PRAISES CIVILIAN INVOLVEMENT IN GOVERNMENT

PY140037Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY

[Summary] Julio Duran Neumann, president of the Chilean Bar Association, has stated that the objectives announced by President Pinochet are being fulfilled by giving civilians responsibilities in government. He added that the country is quickly marching toward institutionalization.

"Julio Duran mentioned that President Pinochet indicated on several occasions the need for the government to be shared with hard-working civilians. This is exemplified by Sergio Fernandez, the new interior minister. The president of the bar association stated that the fact that President Pinochet gave Sergio Fernandez the responsibility to appoint a new cabinet was an outstanding event in the insitutional life of the country. He said that this was like the French procedure, since Sergio Fernandez will be practically acting as a premier." Julio Duran also expressed his concern over the new constitution, which is being prepared in draft form by a commission headed by lawyer Enrique Ortuzar. Duran believes that this draft is intended to set the basis regarding the content and significance of the new constitution before a plebiscite is called. "He emphasized that only in this way [through a plebiscite] will the new constitution be the true expression of the present feelings of the Chilean people, who really want an authoritarian and paternalistic democracy which will fulfill the aspirations of the citizens."

COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER IN HAVANA COMMENTS ON LIBERALIZATION

LD131413Y Milan L'UNITA in Italian 10 Apr 78 p 5 LD

[Giorgio Oldrini interview in Havana with Chilean Communist Party political commission member Volodia Teitelboim: "Teitelboim on Chilean Situation"--date not given]

[Text] Havana--"This is another expedient Pinochet is using to evade the difficult situation he finds himself in, but we must at all costs take advantage of all the spaces, even though small, which the dictator is forced to leave open." [paragraph continues]

This is how Chilean Communist Party political commission member Volodia Teitelboim, who at present is visiting Havana, assesses Pinochet's recent statements announcing the expulsion from Chile of prisoners sentenced by military tribunals over the years for crimes connected with the recently revoked martial law and that the end of the year should see the completion of the new constitution, which will then be submitted to a referendum. At the same time, after many months of exile, the Christian Democratic leader Jaime Castillo has returned to Chile, without having to sign any promise to abstain from politics. Official sources of the fascist government have stressed that Castillo's unconditional return does not set a precedent, but that every request will be examined individually by the Interior Ministry, which will make the final decision.

Nevertheless, it is obvious that many of those forced to leave the country or who, like Castillo, were expelled for violating martial law will now try to follow the Christian Democrat leader's return route. The fascist government is therefore trying to limit concessions as far as possible, but popular pressure and international pressure must succeed in insuring the right of all Chileans to live in their own country. The main reason for the crisis at present is the inquiry into the September 1976 assassination in Washington of Orlando Letelier, former foreign minister in Allende's government and at that time a resistance leader. "It is now clear," Teitelboim says, "and it has been proved that the orders came from Pinochet himself. His right-hand man, then chief of the secret police (DINA) Col Manuel Contreras, selected the couriers of death--a U.S. citizen living in Chile, Michael Townley, and army Captain Fernandez Larios--who, with an official passport bearing false names and a visa applied for directly by the Chilean Foreign Ministry from the U.S. Embassy in Santiago, entered the United States. There they made contact with a group of Cuban counterrevolutionaries who were the actual perpetrators of the attack in which Orlando Letelier and his colleague Ronni Moffit died."

Furthermore, many people are now starting to talk again about another assassination, similar to Letelier's, of an exiled antifascist, Gen Carlos Prats, former chief of staff and former interior minister in Allende's government, who was blown up by a bomb planted under his car in Buenos Aires. It is partly in order to remove these events and charges from the center of attention that Pinochet has issued his "sensational" announcements of controlled liberalization.

LABOR MINISTRY CHARGED WITH USURPING UNION LEADERSHIP

PY131459Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--Leaders of the self-styled "Group of 11" [antigovernment union leaders] have alleged what they call an intensification of union usurpation [paralelismo sindical] and the dislodging of union leaders with the consent of the Labor Ministry. They also reported that they will submit these charges to international organizations such as the ILO and other Western international labor associations to which they belong. The leaders of the "Group of 11" who were [words indistinct] sent a letter to the president in which they disclosed several examples of union usurpation in some unions. The top leaders of the group noted that the displacement of union leaders is being carried out arbitrarily and that the Labor Ministry is violating current regulations.

BRIEFS

COLOR TELEVISION SYSTEM--The Chilean Government has approved the system to be used for the transmission of color television. The government decided to use the MNPFC American system of 525 lines. [Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Apr 78 PY]

SUPREME GOVERNMENT COUNCIL DECREES NEW CONSTITUTION

PA170232Y Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 7 Apr 78 P 1 PA

[Text of Supreme Council of Government decree--date not given]

[Text] The Supreme Council of Government, considering:

That the supreme tribunal referendum in Note 87-TSR of 9 February 1978 presented to the Supreme Council of Government the results of the 15 January 1978 referendum during which constitutions for the legal reorganization of the state were presented to the people.

That the proclamation made by the aforesaid supreme tribunal reveals that the people have chosen the new constitution by a total of 807,574 votes. The reformed 1945 constitution received 582,556 votes. This new constitution was drafted by the First Commission for the State's Legal Reorganization. This commission was created according to the referendum law established under Supreme Decree 1180, of 16 Feburary 1977, and published in official register No 281 of the same month and year.

That according to the first and fourth transitory provisions of Resolution 001 of the Supreme Council of Government, issued on 7 December 1977 and published in official register No 501 of 9 January 1978, and according to the powers with which it has been vested.

Decrees:

Article 1. That the Ecuadorean political constitution, in accordance with the "new constitution" prepared by the First Commission for the State's Legal Reorganization and chosen by the Ecuadorean people in a civic referendum held on Sunday 15 January, will take effect when the new president and vice president of the republic elected by popular vote according to the new constitution and the electoral law are sworn in.

Article 2. That the date for the above-mentioned swearing in of the president and vice president of the republic will be determined according to the fourth transitory provision of the new constitution and Resolution 001 issued by the Supreme Council of Government on 7 December 1977 and published in official register No 501 of 9 January 1978.

Article 3. That the text of the political constitution chosen by the people in the referendum must be published in the official register under the most strict supervision of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. This text will also be published by all information media which the Supreme Electoral Tribunal considers advisable.

EMPLOYERS ORDERED TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR WORKERS

PA150124Y Quito La Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 0030 GMT 15 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] Quito--The Supreme Council of Government has just issued Decree No 2425 wherein it is announced that as of this date, public, semipublic and private entities should provide their employees and workers with transportation to and from their jobs. Those entities or employers who, for any reason, cannot provide such transportation, will compensate their employees or workers with the amount of 100 sucres monthly, as long as their monthly wages are less than that amount.

HOY CHIDES CARTER FOR TODMAN RESIGNATION

PY141906Y Asuncion HOY in Spanish 14 Apr 78 p 11 PY

[Editorial: "What Now, Mr Carter?"]

[Text] The time has come for TRUTH to come out carrying its BANNER of justice for all the world to see, and it does so precisely among the flock of sheep of the champion of human rights. The shepherd (the peanut farmer from Georgia) sends this black sheep away and we in this part of the continent--so harshly judged by this shepherd--wonder if TERENCE TODMAN, the man in charge of investigating human rights here, may have failed to satisfy with his report those who decide whether or not to interfere in countries which depend on U.S. economic and military aid. We also wonder if it was because he refused (as we suppose) to rewrite his report that he was invited to ask for a purely diplomatic post which, without trying to demean it, we can hardly believe could have become, from one day to another, more important that the enormous responsibility of being adviser to the peanut farmer on the rights for which the latter may have to exercise all sorts of pressures in order to fulfill certain promises he made to his people during his presidential campaign. These are promises which must be fulfilled if he does not want to become even more unpopular than he is today, if we go by the computer-made surveys which clearly indicate bad management of foreign policy and an even worse management of domestic policy. The latter is shown by the economic measures through which he practically asks U.S. workers to tighten their belts because the U.S. dollar HAS TOUCHED BOTTOM, while currencies of the countries which the United States annihilated, such as GERMANY and JAPAN, not only see their own efforts yielding positive results, but must also implement impossible and extraordinary measures to protect the U.S. DOLLAR. And let us not talk about Carter's inability to solve his own serious human rights problems such as the racial discrimination which can no longer be disguised. There is no forgetting that we are talking about the most capable country as far as industrial development is concerned, and yet when a colored man moves into a house in the neighborhood, all the whites leave. And when someone arrives in the country the first recommendation is to avoid going to the movies after 1800 and to avoid going into the suburbs after dark.

And no, Mr CARTER, we have a question: Could it not be that TERENCE TODMAN has fulfilled his role with regard to the false and impossible promises you have made, and that the time to clean the flock of black sheep has come?

POLITICS is not like farming peanuts.

BRIEFS

AMNESTY BILL REJECTED--The Colorado Party congressional bloc has rejected a bill calling for general amnesty for political prisoners presented to congress by Radical Liberal Party Deputy Mrs Ligia Prieto de Centurion. Deputy Luis Maria Argana, of the Colorado Party, called on his bloc to turn down the bill, saying that "it would only give common criminals calling themselves guerrillas an opportunity to commit new crimes." [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 14 Apr p 10 PY]

PRESIDENTIAL AIDE--Col Luis Esteban Olmedo Ortiz will be sworn in today as presidential aide de camp and chief of the military household. [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 13 Apr 78 p 11 PY]

POLITICAL EXILES RETURN UNDER GOVERNMENT AMNESTY

PA170136Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2239 GMT 16 Apr 78 PA

[By Claude Regin]

[Text] Lima, 16 Apr (LATIN)--Seven prominent political exiles, among them two army generals, returned today to this capital under a government amnesty.

The group was led by Ret Gen Leonidas Rodriguez Figueroa, who as an army colonel was one of the principal masterminds of the 1968 military coup which launched Peru along a nationalist leftwing path.

Rodriguez Figueroa and other distinguished officers were deported to Mexico in January 1977 for opposing Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez' pragmatic and centrist policies after he replaced deceased Gen Juan Velasco Alvarado 2 years ago.

Shortly before being deported, Gen Rodriguez Figueroa--who for a while headed the National System for Support to Social Mobilization, the government's political agency during Velasco's administration--created the Socialist Revolutionary Party (PSR), which will participate in the June elections for a constituent assembly.

Last month President Morales Bermudez decreed a political amnesty to facilitate the return to a civilian regime. The June elections will be followed by general and presidential elections in 1980.

Rodriguez, who upon leaving the airport today was carried on the shoulders of some 2,000 enthusiastic followers, said during a short news conference that he will fight for the ideals of the 1968 revolution which his party represents.

Rodriguez Figueroa and three high-ranking army and navy officers had been deported for their leftwing opposition activities within the armed forces.

The amnesty, which will benefit about 20 exiles, was decreed shortly after the electoral tribunal decided last month that exiles could participate in the election to form the constituent assembly.

General Rodriguez Figueroa will head the list of PSR candidates, which also includes Ret Gen Arturo Valdez Palacios and Adm Jorge Dellepiane Ocampo.

Valdez returned with Rodriguez, while Dellapiane arrived quietly in Peru shortly after the amnesty was decreed on 16 March. Both men held key positions during General Velasco Alvarado's administration.

Valdez, a military lawyer, was a prominent member of the advisory committee of the presidency and is the author of a labor-participation system in the management of enterprises.

The system, which was later modified to benefit the employers, was introduced by Admiral Dellepiane when he held the post of industry minister during the initial years of the armed forces revolution.

Rodriguez Figueroa told newsmen that he and other officers had been deported for defending the people and the achievements of the Velasco Alvarado era.

On their return, the exiles were also greeted here by other high-ranking military officers who distinguished themselves in Velasco's administration, including former Prime Minister Gen Jorge Fernandez Maldonado and former Foreign Minister Miguel Angel de la Flor Valle.

Rafael Rocangliolo, a former president of the Federation of Journalists of Peru, and Ret Navy Capt Manuel Benza Chacon arrived on the same flight from Mexico City.

Several political observers noted here today that the return of Rodriguez, a popular figure among the Indian peasants of the Andean region of Cuzco, where he was born, and in Lima's poor neighborhoods, will probably give a great impetus to the PSR's electoral hopes.

The list of 100 candidates drafted by the PSR also includes Avelino Mar Arias, leader of the National Agrarian Confederation, which comprises 500,000 members. Mar Arias was also on hand at the airport to welcome the retired army general.

Three other exiles arrived from Panama on an earlier flight. They are Antonio Aragon, who once worked with peasant leader Hugo Blanco; Elio Portocarrero, a former Marxist guerrilla who supported Velasco during the military regime's initial years; and labor leader Julian Sierra.

The three of them, along with Captain Benza and journalist Roncagliolo are members of the PSR, a Marxist-oriented group, and candidates for the constituent assembly.

Hugo Blanco, who led peasant revolts in Cuzco in the early 1960's, returned to Lima last week under the recent amnesty.

POLICE DISPERSE MARCH CALLED BY PROCOMMUNIST CGTP

PA140300Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0048 GMT 14 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 13 Apr (AFP)--The police tonight prevented a "unity march" called by the procommunist General Confederation of Workers of Peru (CGTP). The rally, according to its organizers, was to protest against the Union of Private Entrepreneurs, the Industries Society, a recent labor decree and the International Monetary Fund.

The workers and students who had gathered in front of that labor central were dispersed by police who used armored antiriot vehicles and tear gas. Other labor groups had been invited to join the unity march which had been banned by the authorities. The march was reduced to proclamations over loudspeakers from the CGTP headquarters.

Some 2 hours later, the police continued dispersing small groups of youths who shouted various slogans along several downtown streets in this capital.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS STRIKERS TO RETURN TO WORK

PY131422Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY

[Text] The government has declared illegal the strike which Southern Peru Copper Corporation workers and employees are holding in the district of Ilo, and has ordered them to return to work by tomorrow at the latest.

The government communique reminded the workers that the mining industry has been declared in a state of emergency throughout the country and indicated that the strike they are holding is severely harming the economy of the nation.

PRESIDENT PEREZ SPEAKS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN NICARAGUA

PA161710Y Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 7 Apr 78 p 1-1 PA

[Text] Speaking at the National Council for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICIT) celebration held at the Avila Hotel, President Carlos Andres Perez said that Venezuelans can be sure that he will not abandon the problem of human rights in Nicaragua.

He added: During President Carter's visit both he and I announced that one of the subjects we discussed and which causes us concern was the fact that the OAS Human Rights Commission has not been able to enter Nicaragua. Possibly at a later date we will announce other actions which, within a supranational context and with sincere and real respect for the internal matters of other states, we will take in this case, a case which worries all Latin Americans.

A television reporter asked: Mr President, do you think that there is a consensus in the country to proceed to break relations?

President Perez answered: These questions are always handled with care and usually no information is given in advance. It is only after studies have been made that the Foreign Ministry announces its decisions. For the time being our government's reaction has been divulged and I am pleased to hear what you have said to the effect that there is total solidarity on the part of the Venezuelan people toward the worthy and responsible attitude of the government over which I preside.

In connection with actions at a supranational level, in the OAS the majority of the governments are not democratic. What do you feel about this, Perez was asked.

It does not matter how the OAS is composed nor is it up to me to discuss this. The important thing is for us to act and in this way establish a precedent for dignity in our Latin American world, he answered.

Perez was asked: Is it true, Mr President, that the government has not broken relations with Somoza due to the number of persons in asylum in our embassy in Managua?

To this the president replied: There is no specific reason which can lead a country to break or not break relations. There are other reasons of greater significance which must be considered by Venezuela in reaching such a decision. You know that in the case of a break in diplomatic relations the situation in the country remains the same since another embassy automatically takes over Venezuela's affairs. But that is not the problem. The problem is the seriousness with which our country must take all these steps once it has decided to take them.

BRIEFS

PRICE INCREASES REPORTED--A Central Bank report indicates that the increase in the price of foodstuffs and farm products in the last 2 years ranged from 14 to 25.1 percent. The increase in prices of imported goods was reported at 7.3 percent. In general terms, the price increases exceeded those of 1976, the Central Bank adds. [Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 14 Apr 78 PA]

SUPREME COURT ELECTION--Caracas--Dr Martin Perez Guevara and Dr Jose Roman Duque Santos were reelected president and vice president, respectively, of the Supreme Court of Justice for the fifth straight year. [Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA]

TORRIJOS DISCUSSES CANAL TREATY WITH TRADE SCHOOL STUDENTS

PA172104Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Apr 78 PA

[Statements by Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos and students of the Melchor Lasso de la Vega Arts and Crafts School--recorded]

[Text] [Torrijos intercepted in progress]...talking to you after several years of not visiting this school. However, I had not returned because you no longer need anything--nothing, nothing, nothing. And now it has become the best equipped school, hasn't it? Are you or are you not well equipped? [students shout: no]

What is needed? What? [students shout: many things]

I know that many things are needed, but indeed, what is in excess is a great willingness to serve the fatherland and to study. Here we do have more than enough, don't we? [students shout: yes]

Well, the purpose of my presence here is to stress that the country attaches great importance to vocational education. We have lost much time on essentially intellectual education and the result is that we do not have the necessary technical structure to start the motor of change in the country as we want.

I will visit the shops later. This first visit means that we will go on talking for the entire year. However, there is a topic which right now is above educational matters and about which you and I want to talk, to exchange views.

We are a few hours away from adopting a decision on the result of many years of struggle. This time, this decision finds a country, a government and a student body united. And this unity makes the country's determination and decision much stronger. There are some things--amendments, interventions--which are offensive, but we cannot pass judgment on all of them yet or adopt decisions until we see the full text of what we signed on hemispheric television and what is going to be sent back to us.

It is during these days, these hours, when one must remain most calm because the youth, who have acquired such great stature in our struggle, must know how to keep patriotically calm at a time when many people, perhaps well-intentioned or ill-intentioned, or with little interest or much interest, tend to confuse you.

What do some of you think about what is happening? Will someone tell me something? What is the opinion of the youth?

[Unidentified speaker] We do not want the amendments.

[Torrijos] What?

[Unidentified speaker] We do not want the DeConcini amendments.

[Torrijos] [Sentence indistinct]. Long live Polo. [laughter; applause]

[Unidentified speaker] In regard to everything that is happening among our people, I think that we should be aware of what is really our responsibility, comrades. I tell you that the DeConcini amendment should not be signed [as heard] in the treaty because, if we want a just treaty providing a just and fruitful life to all Panamanians, and only to Panamanians, because we feel that the canal belongs to Panama and not to the United States. [sentence as heard]

As for the DeConcini amendment, which states that the North Americans can intervene in Panama after the year 2000, well, I tell them no because whoever approves that does not approve the treaties since the treaties provide that the canal will belong to Panama and not to them. If we say that we accept this amendment, then we do not know what national sovereignty really means. Thank you. [applause and cheers]

[Torrijos] Anyone else? [shouts of long live the revolutionary government]

[Unidentified student] Welcome, Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, Mr Education Minister, school Director Enrique Reilly Puga, comrades [Torrijos interrupts]....

[Torrijos] [Words indistinct] the boys. Today's spectacle does not belong to you. [laughter]

[Unidentified speaker] Our organization, aware of its role in the struggle in this country, demands that these reservations and amendments be rejected in this country. Why? We are going to sign a treaty between two persons. You approve it and I do not. I tell you: I have the right to take a piece of furniture out of your house. Who is going to approve it? You, comrade? Well then, who is supposed to approve it?

Comrades: Above all, the federated association of the arts and crafts school wishes to convey a fraternal and revolutionary greeting to all on this first day of classes of the school year.

[Torrijos] Boys, this is good. I have come here to listen to your opinions, to nurture my heart and my life with the patriotism of this generation. However, in the same way, I must think in a cautious manner, but with dignity because neither General Torrijos nor this government is a group ready to fight to the last student. This past will not return. In addition, your future installations, your future physical plant will be on the other side of the fence, very close, nearby. You deserve to have the school extended in that direction because the arts and crafts school has been one of the vanguard posts of the feelings of national dignity since 1912 or 1916, when it was founded.

There will be many rumors and counterrumors during these days. Let us reach an agreement here. Do not take to the streets in a spontaneous manner to risk your defenseless chests unless we agree on it in advance. Whatever is done from today until Wednesday must be a very well coordinated action. Promise me that you will remain calm. I want this promise from you because all of the efforts we have made during these 10 years of government have been carried out for you.

In effect, there are amendments, patches [as heard] and interpretations. However, let us see if an amendment will come which will amend the conscience of those who are amending us. This is possible. [laughter] Don't you think so? And rest assured that this great honor they want to bestow on me now as leader of this country, this great honor of codifying or signing the receipt which justifies the first intervention of the 21st century, is such a great honor that I will have to share it with the other leaders of the hemisphere. Don't you think so? What an honor they want to bestow on me! And see whom they have found!

Therefore, things may change. They may change, becoming favorable or unfavorable. What I can indeed tell you is that the government and these people will get answers. This government will never leave the Panamanian people without an answer. I will leave here much more convinced of what the youth want and think. And if I ever have to betray someone, I would not do so against the will of the studious youth of our fatherland. Many thanks, boys. [applause]

MINISTERS COMMENT ON TREATIES AT SCHOOL OPENING ACTIVITIES

PA1722252Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] Close to half a million students have begun school throughout the country. One of the places where many students go to school is the Paitilla student complex where Ministers Adolfo Ahumada, Nicolas Ardito Barletta and Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla made an appearance.

The planning minister, Dr Barletta, spoke on behalf of the national government at the Jose Antonio Remon Cantera High School which this year will have more than 4,000 students. The school principal made the usual remarks on the first day of school, stressing the day's historical importance in light of the national situation.

He then introduced Planning Minister Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta. Minister Barletta said that special moments in history require greater communication among all groups and that this is the reason he was addressing the students at Jose Remon Cantera High School.

He also noted the need to achieve national unity by continuing communication, promising on behalf of the government that he will remain in close contact with all groups. Minister Barletta spoke for less than 5 minutes.

At the Escuela Professional Isabel Herrera Obaldia, Principal Gloria Ch. de Velasquez also highlighted the country's historical situation. She mentioned that the Panamanian Government and people are facing a crucial moment which calls for cool thinking on the part of all of us.

Professor de Valasquez also noted that this calm thinking will lead to behavior that will reflect a constructive and responsible position. She finally called for constant communication with the students, and asked them to behave properly.

She then introduced Labor Minister Adolfo Ahumada. Minister Ahumada said that between today and tomorrow we will reach a decisive point in Panama's history in view of the fact that the U.S. Senate has been introducing amendments which distort what Panamanians approved on 23 October.

He admitted that since 16 March the government has kept a prudent silence which is not contrary to patriotism. Minister Ahumada said that the government will have to confront or promote a widespread national discussion of analysis and study before it replies to the United States.

However, the labor minister said the government sees two alternatives in view of what is happening in the U.S. Senate. If the U.S. Senate or its executive or both cannot find a formula to tacitly repeal the DeConcini amendment, it is obvious that the treaty will have to be rejected.

That would not happen if this amendment--which would hang over Panama like a Damocles sword--were made to disappear. However, Minister Ahumada went on, with or without DeConcini, the country will come out ahead with the support of the Panamanian people.

He finally remarked that as a former student leader he can view things calmly and that, if the frame of mind of the administration can be defined, it is one of guarded optimism. He also stated that he felt dutybound to ask the students to wait patiently for the national government to guide them.

Foreign Minister Appeals for Prudence

PA171411Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1344 GMT 17 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 17 April (ACAN-EFE)--Panamanian Foreign Minister Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla today, Monday, said that "in just 36 hours, democracy will be tested as a system to lead the world of today." He was referring to tomorrow's U.S. Senate vote on the canal treaties.

"The United States of America has for many years preached about decolonization, the principle of nonintervention and self-determination of the peoples. Tomorrow, the U.S. Senate will show Panama and the world if it is willing to apply such principles. Tomorrow the U.S. Senate will tell us if we are mistaken in believing in the same values they proclaim," the minister added.

Gonzalez Revilla made this announcement on the first day of classes today, which had been postponed in order to avoid incidents during the conflicting and bitter senatorial debate to approve or reject the new canal documents.

"On this day we start what could be described as the most important school term in the history of our country.... Tomorrow the U.S. Senate will tell us what price we must pay to gain the right to be a free and dignified nation," the foreign minister said this morning.

Approximately 600,000 students began their first day of classes today following a postponement ordered by the education minister shortly after it was learned that the U.S. senators had introduced into the treaties amendments which significantly modify their original content, expanding the U.S. right to intervene in Panama.

The beginning of the school year and the already announced plans to hold demonstrations against the amendments introduce a potentially explosive element on the eve of the final decision in Washington regarding the basic treaty.

In this morning's message, the foreign minister asked for prudence from university and high school students.

"Youths of my country," he said, "Panama has a leader who represents the courage, dignity and pride of its people. At this time, as never before, our country cannot let political ambitions and personal interests confuse any Panamanian."

"Tomorrow, when we confront our destiny, we should maintain total unity. The responsibility of General Torrijos and those of us who accompany him is very great. To you who represent the future of our fatherland, we assure you that whatever the results of the U.S. Senate vote, this government's promise of leaving to you and future generations a free and sovereign nation remains unchanged."

Education Minister's Message

PA172207Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 17 Apr 78 p 1 PA

[Education Minister Aristides Royo's 17 April message at the beginning of the school year]

[Text] In the name of Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos and President Demetrio Basilio Lakas on this auspicious occasion, we send a greeting to those who will begin school today to teach and learn.

This school term begins on the eve of the most important historical event that perhaps any generation of the republican era has ever experienced but whose outcome is still unknown. Nevertheless, we can forecast that in view of the degree of maturity, patriotism and education that our people have reached, we are sure that, just as Commander Torrijos said, we will never permit national dignity to be offended.

We entrust to the students, the moral reserve of the nation, the future preservation and strengthening of the struggles and achievements of the present.

For an education for liberation.

[Signed] Education Minister Aristides Royo. Panama, 18 April 1978

DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST TREATIES STAGED AT U.S. EMBASSY

Law Students Demand Plebiscite

PA1719201 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Apr 78 PA

[Text] About 100 students of various ideological factions of the Panama law school center staged a demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy to express their rejection of the Torrijos-Carter treaties. Members of the Guaykucho-Nir, the Revolutionary Movement and the Popular Revolutionary Front, among others, walked from the Panama university law school to the U.S. Embassy.

They carried protest signs and shouted revolutionary slogans rejecting the treaties, with or without amendments. They also displayed signs asking General Torrijos to hold a second plebiscite. The speakers, who were being watched by newsmen and a National Guard contingent headed by Major Alba, expressed their repudiation of the negotiations, the treaties and the amendments.

The law school students' position is summarized as follows: In our opinion the additions and modifications to the Torrijos-Carter treaties constitute a reaffirmation of the spirit of the treaties. Nevertheless, legally they represent changes which require another pronouncement by the people, a plebiscite, which we demand and which should be broader this time.

As soon as the speeches were over, the students threw bottles filled with red, white and blue paint against the U.S. Embassy building, shouting that the Americans should get out of the canal.

In response to this action by the students the National Guard contingent headed by Major Alba fired tear gas grenades, which compelled the students to retreat temporarily.

A few minutes afterward several students marched past the embassy and the National Guard contingent carrying the Panamanian flag.

Despite the dispersal of the students, no casualties or arrests during the demonstration were reported.

Approximately 15 minutes after the incidents at the U.S. Embassy, the same group of students assembled in front of the Panamanian Foreign Ministry where, after talking with Major German Torres, they resumed their protests against and their rejection of the treaties. On this occasion student leader Olimpo Saenz spoke, making direct accusations against the National Guard.

Students Picket U.S. Embassy

PA171737Y Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Apr 78 PA

["Commentarios y Opiniones" program with Lucho Pimentel and Tonin Guerra]

[Text] [Lucho Pimentel] This thing has already started, Tonin. The students are now in front of the U.S. Embassy. They will stay there on the alert, continuously, until tomorrow when discussion of the treaties will begin. Now, we can predict to the students in front of the embassy that the Senate is already duly informed of the demonstration since the embassy's red line with Washington must be operating incessantly. So, it goes that way.

We have received from the law students center and the Association of Psychology Students of the University of Panama an appeal to attend, with our cry of denunciation and protest, the picketing to be staged beginning today at 1000 in front of the U.S. Embassy and later on before the Panamanian Foreign Ministry. I know, because I have just returned from the U.S. Embassy, that the students are going to stay there continuously, day and night, until tomorrow. They are also distributing 4-by-6-inch leaflets showing the image of President Carter riding a Texas-type horse with a bundle under his arm. The bundle is labeled amendments. In front of him, kneeling before the Isthmus of Panama, appears Omar Torrijos. I think this is an allusion to Torrijos' phrase which says never on our knees. Apparently, Torrijos is kneeling before President Carter and a phrase is written above his head, which reads: Panamanians, do not let it happen. This apparently refers to the fact that Torrijos is kneeling and is telling Panamanians not to allow him to kneel. So, General Torrijos must be lifted up.

On the back, the leaflet reads: General Torrijos: The fatherland comes first and is above the interests of groups or the government.

Next, it says: Panamanian people, struggle against the interventionist amendments and for a second plebiscite. Organize yourselves and struggle.

The leaflet is signed by the CCP, the acronym for the Camilo Torres Circle; the FOS, Front of Socialist Organizations, isn't it? Then comes the FPJ, that is, the Popular Youth Front; and the MCI [expansion unknown].

Parishioners Stage Peaceful Vigil

PA180405Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] Dozens of Christians tonight staged a vigil in front of the U.S. Embassy to express their rejection of the amendments and reservations introduced by the U.S. Senate to the canal neutrality treaty. The peaceful demonstration was organized by Our Lady of Perpetual Help parishioners who prayed and sang psalms. This was the second demonstration today in front of the U.S. Embassy.

SECURITY CHIEF REVEALS CANAL ZONE PLOT AGAINST PANAMA

PA171837Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1824 GMT 17 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 17 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Lt Col Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panamanian security chief, informed a group of students that a plot is being prepared in the Canal Zone to attack Panama, ACAN-EFE was told today.

ACAN-EFE was told by the student leaders who were present at the meeting that the reported plot had the name "green moon" or "blue moon."

It was said that several hundred Cuban mercenaries had been gathered together in the Canal Zone to carry out the plot.

The meeting of the Panamanian security chief with student leaders was held at the end of last week and had been kept secret until today.

The student leaders said that the meeting was held in order to report that the Panamanian Government will use its security forces if the students engage in violence in their current drive of repudation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

This morning, tear gas bombs were used to disperse a demonstration at the U.S. Embassy in Panama City when the students hurled bottles filled with paint at the embassy building.

No more details were given on the alleged plot of Cuban mercenaries planned in the Canal Zone.

One of the leaders said that "Lieutenant Colonel Noriega quoted the figure of 500 when he referred to the Cuban mercenaries stationed in the Canal Zone ready to be launched against Panama."

OPPOSITION DEMANDS TREATY REJECTION IN ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

PA142355Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Apr 78 pp 1, 27 PA

[Text] Under no circumstances can Panama accept the amendments, reservations and other conditions which the U.S. Senate has added to the Torrijos-Carter neutrality treaty. These amendments have served to reveal the onerous conditions placed on our national dignity which existed implicitly in the treaties. This was the conclusion reached by the various speakers who discussed "the Torrijos-Carter treaties and the U.S. Senate reservations" during a roundtable organized by the National Problem Study Center and held at the science atheneum last Wednesday evening.

Carlos Ivan Zuniga, Miguel Moreno, Diogenes Arosemena, Mario Galindo and university student Olimpo Saenz of the Camilo Torres Circle participated in the discussion which was attended by some 500 people. The roundtable was presided over by Osvaldo Velasquez. The roundtable gathered well-known figures of the national opposition who asserted that now that it has been determined, as they had previously warned, that the Torrijos-Carter treaties are bad, the Panamanians should demand that the government withdraw the treaties. These treaties have already been rejected by the U S. Senate through its amendments to them. The participants urged Panamanians to continue their struggle for real sovereignty and liberation.

The roundtable discussion was attended by outstanding personalities of various political parties and national organizations as well as several well-known lawyers, including Julio Linares, Victor Navas, Antonio Gonzalez Revilla and other members of the national studies center, Movement of Independent Lawyers and the Democratic Movement.

The first speaker was Olimpo Saenz of the leftist Camilo Torres Circle. He summarized the causes of the conflict which are made more acute by the Torrijos-Carter treaties and said that "we are hanging from a thread if the Panamanians do not know how to confront the amendments."

Diogenes Arosemena quoted from a series of meetings of the Panamanian negotiators where it had been revealed that they had not taken minutes of the proposals and talks prior to the negotiating process itself. [sentence as published] He also said that Panama, because of a lack of experience or because of the arrogance of many of the negotiators, did not make any attempt to pressure the U.S. Senate. Panama should have lobbied in the Senate over the past 14 years in preparation for the moment of ratification. "It is too late now. This forced us to depend entirely on the executive, as if Mr Kissinger and Mr Carter could solve the problem alone. Panama forgot the old fued between the U.S. Executive Branch and Congress on the controversial issue of who should negotiate."

We also ignored the fact, Arosemena said, that the situation between the U.S. Executive Branch and Congress deteriorated after Vietnam and Watergate. He added that Panama could have also foreseen the reservations or limited their extent if it had stipulated it in the treaty texts. [si lo hubiera estipulado en el texto de los mismos tratados]

Arosemena added that the amendments and reservations have placed a new treaty before us and that we must reject it in order to begin a new negotiating process in which our national sovereignty and dignity are zealously protected.

Referring to the DeConcini reservation, he said that it is dangerous not only for Panama but also for all of Latin America. It is an incredible and brutal step backwards for the nonintervention policy created by Latin America after years of struggle. He also called attention to the implications of Senator Sam Nunn's reservation affecting Article V of the neutrality treaty which will allow the establishment of U.S. troops in Panama after the year 2000.

Former Foreign Minister Miguel Moreno began by referring to those cases in which, based on existing treaties or agreements, the United States has made its interpretations of certain somewhat vague clauses prevail. "Each time it has been necessary to explain a clause, the U.S. viewpoint has prevailed," he said. Commenting on this aspect, he noted that Article IV of the neutrality treaty is ambiguous regarding U.S. rights and that the DeConcini amendment has removed the cloak covering the imperialists' true intentions.

Commenting on the amendments to the treaty, Moreno noted that the Senate had arbitrarily incorporated the Torrijos-Carter memorandum of understanding in two separate parts--one part was incorporated in Article IV and the other in Article VI--so that it would accommodate their intentions.

According to Moreno, a clarifying resolution does not lessen the strength of an amendment or reservation changing the treaty already approved. The DeConcini amendment has turned the treaty into something horrible and repulsive to the Panamanian and Latin American tradition. And it is not the only one, there is also the Nunn amendment, the one concerning tolls and several others.

We agree with lawyers Cesar Quintero, Julio Linares and former Foreign Minister Aquilino Boyd that the government can and should reject those amendments and reservations. What it cannot do is accept them without first subjecting them to a new plebiscite.

Concluding, Miguel Moreno remarked that "if the price Panama must pay in order to sign a new treaty with the United States is that of becoming a protectorate on the basis of perpetuity, then it is preferrable not to have a treaty." "We must continue fighting," he added, "and never yield under pressures of any kind."

For his part, Dr Mario Galindo noted that the amendment incorporating the Torrijos-Carter memorandum of understanding establishes and reiterates certain rights which are harmful to Panama, but which the treaty already granted the United States. He added that the DeConcini reservation has further distorted the "ill-named neutrality treaty," as has Senator Nunn's reservation which has a secondary effect of tremendous importance since it "divests the neutrality treaty of any interest or attraction that might make other countries sign it." The reservation contemplates the possibility that Panama might grant the United States the right to establish military bases in its territory after the year 2000. It is true that it contemplates such a possibility, Galindo explained, but the arguments resorted to in this case are fallacious because the idea was to have other countries adhere to the neutrality treaty. This is what the government officials said and affirmed, and the idea was for this treaty to become a multilateral one. Once this was achieved, these treaties could not be changed exclusively by the United States and Panama. But what happens if the Nunn reservation is incorporated into the neutrality treaty? What country in the world with any dgree of self-respect would adhere to a treaty that can be reformed at will by only two parties, without taking into consideration the other countries which adhere to it?

Galindo also referred to the tolls amendment, which almost turns the Panama Canal into a foreign canal after the year 2000. According to this amendment, once Panama takes over the canal, it will not be able to raise the tolls without taking into account a number of specific considerations, which include the interests of both parties in maintaining their domestic fleets. In other words, Panama has to fix the Panamanian canal's tolls in accordance with U.S. interests in maintaining its domestic fleet. This aspect further distorts the treaty as regards the leajers. [translation unknown] Moreover, Panama has to consider the impact of toll adjustments on the various geogr·phical areas of each of the two parties.

That is to say, Panama cannot operate and manage the canal according to its own judgment. Rather, it has to consider the effects that those tolls will have on the United States. According to Galindo, these and other considerations will turn the canal after the year 2000 into a foreign canal which does not belong to Panamanians.

Galindo criticized the silence maintained by the government, which was not really true since the government has made statements in Washington and international circles. "The silence started with the term 'potable' regarding the amendments," Galindo said, which apart from contradicting this policy of silence, was an extremely serious statement for Panama's interests. It could even create a tremendous confusion among the countries which have supported the Panamanian cause by giving the impression that Panama was consenting to these amendments.

Galindo said that now that the Panamanian Government has put an end to its silence, it only has two alternatives: to accept the amendments, in which case it will have to submit the treaties to another plebiscite; or reject the treaties, in which case a plebiscite would not be necessary.

Regarding the current situation caused by the reservations, Galindo said that Panama cannot turn its back on its history, recalling the promise that Theodore Roosevelt made in 1904. For Panama to remain silent, Galindo went on, would be extremely serious and highly dangerous since in international law to remain silent at the precise moment of agreement is to accept the demands of the other party.

Galindo also said that DeConcini's amendment would no longer be allegedly illegal once Panama accepts it. The nonintervention principle could not be claimed if this right of intervention is granted to another nation, as would be the case here. Besides, to what court would we appeal? What court would declare it illegal?

Dr Carlos Ivan Zuniga said at the beginning of his statements, that the country was going through one of those great moments in the life of a nation when it must make great decisions which will finally determine its condition as a nation or colony. These are very delicate times for us.

He added that it is good to remember a country like Vietnam which did not have 13 years of negotiations, but 40 years in which each day and each hour was written in blood and genuine sacrifices. If at present the alternative is uncertain, we must not forget that we have received lessons from other countries which do not have to be followed literally in every aspect, as long as we maintain our objectives of sovereignty, independence and dignity.

In his analysis of DeConcini's reservation, Zuniga pointed out that by amending Article V of the treaty, it not only authorizes military intervention but intervention to operate the canal, to maintain military forces and defense sites, which is very clear in its text.

It must be clearly understood that DeConcini's reservation not only grants authorization to intervene, but in carrying out Clause IV it establishes that Panama and the United States will maintain neutrality in perpetuity. This means that the concept of the defense of neutrality will be maintained in perpetuity. On amending Clauses IV and V, DeConcini's reservation stresses U.S. rights of intervention. "It is not just the reservation that is bad, it is also the treaties," Zuniga pointed out.

Zuniga added that in matters of interpretation, Panamanians must go back to history. With regard to interpretations, we must remember what has happened. We know we cannot trust these interpretations because they have always been against us.

Referring to the so-called national unity, Zuniga said that it was necessary and indispensable to develop national policies which are fundamental conditions in taking any step or making any move toward national unity. It is necessary to have national unity so that we can face the consequences of the actions that Panama will take. These conditions must be made very clear and they must consolidate national corporations in order to give them a real identity. It is going to be necessary to establish a corporation in charge of organizing the nation's basic institutions, which in other words is a constituent assembly. "We are not trying to restore institutions which were plagued with evils. No one is thinking about restoring obsolete systems," Zuniga said. He continued saying that from the constituent assembly should come the new organizations which will restore Panamanians' faith, hope and trust in them and which above all should create a social climate of democratic coexistence in which every Panamanian will find a place to work, struggle and do his share in making the history of the nation.

COSTA RICA

ODUBER CANCELS FACIO TRIP TO UNITED STATES

PA180243Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Apr 78 PA

[Text] In the next few hours, Foreign Minister Gonzalo Facio will announce the position that Costa Rica will assume at the forthcoming UN General Assembly on disarmament.

Facio, who was reviewing the final details of the statement he is scheduled to make [as heard] on 23 May at the United Nations, said that powers such as the Soviet Union and the United States today possess the equivalent of 1.3 million bombs of the type used on Hiroshima and that they have 12,000 thermonuclear bombs that could destroy every trace of human life.

Facio expressed his concern over having had to cancel all of his appointments in the United States in view of President Oduber's decision to prohibit him from visiting there. He said he had to cancel a meeting on Wednesday with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, with whom he was to discuss specific issues related to sugar, beef and maquila corn. He also had to cancel the ceremony prepared by the UN secretary general in honor of his 8 years service as foreign minister, in addition to another activity in his honor at the UN headquarters.

Asked about the reasons for President Oduber's decision, Foreign Minister Facio merely replied: I do not know; you would have to ask President Oduber.

GOVERNMENT COMPROMISES ON TEACHERS SALARY HIKE

PA162248Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1815 GMT 15 Apr 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 15 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Last night the Costa Rican Government reduced some of the tension over the salary demands when it reached an understanding with teachers and professors.

The understanding was reached when both parties abandoned their original positions. The government did not grant the $45 per month increase demanded by the teachers but did grant more than the $11 it had offered. A middle ground was reached and the increase was set at $22.

However, a no less explosive conflict remains. Next week negotiations will resume with the rest of the government workers who have also asked for a $45 per month salary increase.

The government rejected the original demands claiming that the country's budget could not absorb the multimillion dollar impact.

BRIEFS

NEW VIETNAMESE, HAITIAN AMBASSADORS--San Jose, Costa Rica, 12 Apr--Vietnamese Ambassador Le Tham and Ronald Augustin, the new Haitian ambassador, today presented their credentials to President Daniel Oduber. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0434 GMT 13 Apr 78 PA]

SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--San Jose, 10 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Francisco Bertrand Galindo presented his credentials today to President Daniel Oduber. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0122 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA]

EL SALVADOR

CATHOLIC CHURCH ACCUSED OF PROMOTING SUBVERSION

PA172247Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1930 GMT 17 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 17 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The progovernment Nationalist Democratic Organization [ORDEN] today accused the Catholic Church here of contributing to the violence in El Salvador's rural area by making subversive speeches.

ORDEN already had clashed with the Salvadoran Christian Peasants Federation [FECCAS], the Farm Workers Union [UTC] and the Popular Revolutionary Bloc [BPR] in San Pedro Perulapan in incidents which have led to the occupation of the embassies of Panama, Costa Rica, Venezuela and Switzerland and also the metropolitan cathedral, by leftist peasant groups which intend to stay until they are allowed to return to their homes.

Through the radio and pamphlets, ORDEN, an anticommunist organization, today made serious accusations against many priests and Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero Galdamez, the archbishop of El Salvador.

ORDEN said it has information that a Belgian priest called Bernardo, who founded FECCAS in El Salvador, is directing the violent incidents taking place here from Olancho, Honduras. Many peasants have been killed, wounded and arrested or have disappeared.

In a sermon delivered at San Salvador's El Rosario Church, where he had to say mass because the cathedral is occupied, Monsignor Romero Baldamez yesterday denied that he is a member of BRP or a leader of that leftist group which is causing problems for the government.

GUATEMALA

CONGRESS OFFICIALLY DECLARED ELECTED

PA152134Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2030 GMT 14 Apr 78 PA

[By Alberto Flores]

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The eventful process of counting the votes cast during the election of 5 March in Guatemala moved a step forward today when the new congress was officially declared elected with a government majority. The Broad Front, which also won the elections for president and vicepresident of the republic, will have an absolute majority of 34 seats in the 61-seat congress.

Nevertheless, insofar as the individual parties and groups are concerned, the National Liberation Movement [MLN] will have the largest number of seats, 20 in all, followed by the Broad Front's bloc consisting of 17 for the Institutional Democratic Party [PID], 14 for the Revolutionary Party [PR] and 3 for the Organized Aranista Coalition [CAO].

Based on the composition of the new congress which will be installed on 15 June, the Broad Front will be able to legislate on general matters without hindrance except for occasional defection or dissidence among its deputies. This is likely to occur because no bloc is absolutely "solid" in the sense that this time the elections were marked by alliances and agreements among the parties and groups.

The grouping of political forces in the new Guatemalan congress will require a constant renewal of alliances. The Broad Front's majority bloc is composed of the PID, PR and CAC, in addition to other groups such as Democratic Action.

The Front for National Unity and the Nationalist Revolutionary Party will be united with the MLN, whereas the Authentic Revolutionary Party and other leftist groups will be united with the Christian Democratic Party [PDC].

Regarding the purely internal aspect of the congressional blocs, a problem exists in that a two-thirds majority is required for economic and foreign policy matters and none of the blocs hold such a majority. If, according to rumors, the anticommunists and the Christian Democrats form an alliance, they would have a total of 27 seats against the Broad Front's 34. Therefore, those who won the presidency and the majority in congress will unquestionably be forced to look for extra support from the Christian Democrats on matters requiring a two-thirds majority. Thus, although the PDC has only a few seats, its votes will be decisive for decisions on economic and foreign policy matters during the next 4 years.

Although the Electoral Council has completed the vote count for congress, the parties that lost the presidential election remain restive. Both the PDC and MLN have called on the army "to fulfill its duty of safeguarding democratic institutions."

Through a women's committee, the ultrarightists have stated that "there can be no call for understanding from those who perpetrated the fraud on 5 March because they showed none to us or our children." "In our capacity as women participating in civic affairs, we ask the army to fulfill its mission," the women said.

The PDC has said that "the government has destroyed the republican system" by using power for its own benefit to the point of "leading the country to the brink of civil war."

For his part, Gen Ricardo Peralta Mendez, the PDC's former presidential candidate, demanded, "upon leaving active military service definitively," that "all Guatemalans abandon conformity." At the same time, he "reiterated his confidence in the army, with the certainty that it upholds its moral values as an institution at the service of the people," adding that the military "must not be confused by the misguided actions of a small number of officers." Peralta concluded by stating that "the Guatemalan youth, civilians and military will save Guatemala. I will fulfill my duty and will be at the frontline when the people so demand."

GOVERNMENT ACCUSES POLITICAL GROUPS OF SEDITION

PA141425Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 14 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The government has stated that political groups are using seditious practices. The presidency's public relations secretariat released a document in reply to what it calls insidious charges made by women belonging to the National Liberation Movement [MLN]. The MLN ladies charged the government and the Broad Front, which supported Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia's candidacy, with rigging the 5 March elections.

The communique says that President Laugerud carried out his duties correctly and met his commitment to insure free elections. It goes on to say that everything related to the political campaign was handled by autonomous organizations having jurisdiction over the whole country, such as the electoral registrar and the Electoral Council.

The government urges the ladies who denounced the alleged fraud to file charges with the courts of law because it is not up to the president of the republic to act as a judge.

The communique concludes by stating that the charge concerning the use of the facilities of the former polytechnical school in setting up the equipment used in rigging the election goes beyond one's wildest dreams and shows no level-headedness. This insidious charge shows a political attitude of not wanting to clear up the reported incidents but of using seditious practices.

NICARAGUA

'CLIMATE OF TENSION' CONTINUES IN COUNTRY

PA171425Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 17 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The climate of tension continues in several cities. After 15 days of strikes by almost 50,000 (?high school) students, tension continues in the major cities in the country due to the fact that parents have joined the movement.

The principal activities now involve the support which parents are giving the students' educational claims. Several parents were arrested yesterday as they were taking food to students in control of the Baptist school, according to student reports.

A student demonstration was dispersed on Saturday in the southern city of (Eliviria) and five students were arrested by military patrols.

In Leon a homemade bomb went off inside the patio of the government building. Fires and demonstrators were evident in the northern part of the city.

In Jinotepe police hurled tear gas bombs at students occupying the Juan Jose Rodriguez Institute. The students left the school building. The tear gas affected the patients of the local hospital next to the school.

FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA LEAVES FOR USSR

FL171758Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The foreign minister of our country, Isidoro Malmierca, today, Monday, left for the USSR in response to an invitation from the USSR Government. Accompanying the Cuban foreign minister on the trip are director of the Socialist Countries Directorate Sidroc Ramos, interim director of International Organizations (Jose Luis Perez) and chief of the USSR Department (Niel Ruiz Guerra), all Foreign Ministry [MINREX] officials.

First Vice Foreign Minister Rene Anillo and other MINREX officials, along with the USSR Charge d'Affaires in our country, Marlen Manaso, were at the airport to bid the delegation farewell.

ALMEIDA HEADS DELEGATION TO UN MEETING ON NAMIBIA

FL171720Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, PCC Politburo member, will head the delegation from our country to the eighth extraordinary UN General Assembly session on Namibia. The information on Almeida's trip to the United Nations was announced by the Cuban Foreign Ministry.

Juan Almeida, who is also vice president of the Council of State, is the highest ranking Cuban leader to attend a UN General Assembly session since 1964, when Maj Ernesto Che Guevara attended.

It was announced that the decision to send such a high-ranking official was taken because the Cuban Revolutionary Government realizes and places great importance on eliminating colonial and racist domination in Namibia and Zimbabwe. Recently our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro stated that solidarity and cooperation with the peoples of Africa and with all member countries of the international community constitutes one of the principal objectives of the revolutionary government's foreign policy and the internationalist will of the Cuban people. The decision of the Cuban Revolutionary Government to send Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque contrasts with maneuvers of some imperialist countries which are trying to lessen the importance of the meetings on the Namibian situation.

MACHADO HEADS DELEGATION TO SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS

FL171640Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee, has bade farewell to the Cuban delegation invited to the Ninth Congress of the Spanish Communist Party. PCC Politburo and Secretariat member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura heads the delegation that will attend the congress to be held in Madrid from 19 to 22 April.

Q2

CUBA

RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ OPENS NONALINED MEETING ON MEDIA

FL172057Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The second meeting of the nonalined countries Intergovernmental Council on Information Coordination began a few moments ago in the Ambassadors Hall of the Habana Libre Hotel. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, PCC Politburo member and vice president of the Cuban councils of state and ministers, made the opening remarks. Council President Moustapha Masmoudi, Tunisian secretary of state for information, and Cuban delegation chief Nivaldo Herrera were at the presidium with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez. PCC Central Committee members, Cuban ministers and officials also attended the opening session.

Participating in this second conference are Ghana, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Sri Lanka, Togo, Tunisia, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Cuba as host country. Algeria, DPRK, Jamaica, Libya, Niger, Syria, Uganda, UNESCO, United Nations, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Organization of African Unity are attending as observers.

In his opening remarks, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez greeted the participants in this second conference in the name of the Government of the Republic of Cuba and briefly commented on the importance of this meeting taking place within the framework of peoples' sovereignty to truthfully inform and be informed. [begin recording]

The presence in this room of men and women who represent the vast conglomeration of countries which have been improperly labeled "Third World" once again confirms the worldwide character of our battle. The variety of our ideas does not prevent us from recognizing that the enemy which opposes us is the same, that the forces against which we have to exercise our sovereignty and right to recover and use our wealth are identified by the same oppressive interest, although their aspirations and policies do not always coincide.

This consciousness of the need to unite above all that tends to differentiate us from each other and sometimes divides us is the principal force of the nonalined movement. We already know that what happens in the Middle East or in the southern cone of Africa, in Johannesburg, Lebanon or in the Horn of Africa, concerns us all, and that we cannot be indifferent to the decisions adopted in New York or Washington.

The solidarity by which we struggle to escape from backwardness, and our alliance with the forces that understand and support us, are at the center of the strategy which we have designed. In this world battle information has played a decisive role for some time, but now more than ever before. [end recording]

Also speaking at the opening session was Moustapha Masmoudi, president of the nonalined countries Intergovernmental Council on Information Coordination, who referred to the cooperation undertaken by the nonalined countries so that this conference is a success. Masmoudi thanked the Cuban Government and president of the Council of State, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, for hosting this second meeting of the nonalined Intergovernmental Council on Information Coordination.

RAUL CASTRO PRESIDES OVER MILITIAMAN'S DAY ACTIVITY

FL171912Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Army Gen Raul Castro, PCC Central Committee second secretary and Revolutionary Armed Forces--FAR--minister, has presided over the Militiaman's Day main event held at a motorized infantry regiment of the Western Army in Havana City. At the ceremony, numerous officers were promoted to the next higher grade and others were promoted to warrant officer, all of them belonging to the reserves.

In his closing remarks, Brig Gen Orlando Rodriguez Puerta stated that on Militiaman's Day homage is paid to the men and women who gave their lives in defense of the revolution. He said that the young combatants find themselves involved in various tasks in preparation for the 11th World Youth and Students Festival. He referred to the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution, which he said should take on a profound significance for all combatants.

Also presiding at the Militiaman's Day event were Div Gen Senen Casas, FAR first vice minister-chief of the General Staff, Div Gen Pedro Garcia Pelaez, chief of the Western Army and Brig Gen Orlando Rodriguez Puerta, chief of staff, [presumably of the Western Army] among others.

RAUL CASTRO PRESIDES OVER DAAFAR CEREMONY

FL172304Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Army Gen Raul Castro, PCC Central Committee second secretary and Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] minister, has presided over the main event honoring the 17th anniversary of the Revolutionary Air Force and Antiaircraft Defense [DAAFAR] which was held at the DAAFAR specialists training center. Vice Ministers, FAR generals, chiefs and officers and Soviet specialists, political and mass organization leaders and other guests attended the event. It began with a parade and ended with a military exercise and a gymnastic exercise in which combatants and students from the DAAFAR specialists training center showed their handling of the equipment and weapons and their high level of physical training.

At the event, Artillery Lt Gen (Boris Aleksandrovich Stolitov) spoke in behalf of the Soviet specialists, congratulating the DAAFAR combatants on their 17th anniversary and pointing out the close ties of friendship existing between the Soviet Armed Forces and FAR.

The main address was made by Div Gen Francisco Cabrera Gonzalez, FAR vice minister and chief of the DAAFAR. He stated that this year--when all people are working with unselfish tenacity and enthusiasm to salute the 25th anniversary of the Moncada Barrack assault and the 11th World Youth and Students Festival--we are celebrating the 17th anniversary of the DAAFAR, arising from that memorable day when its valiant founders advanced firmly and decisively through the skies and on the sands of Playa Giron against the aggressive enemy. He recalled the heroic epic carried out by our people in the struggle against the imperialist invasion until victory was achieved. He also pointed out the successses attained by the DAAFAR since its founding.

He stressed that today the men and women using the DAAFAR's modern technology and weaponry are loyal combatants to the PCC and the commander in chief, and having been educated in the principles of Marxism-Leninism know how to fulfill, without hesitation, the tasks assigned in defense of the fatherland and the honorable internationalist missions.

He also stated that the results obtained from the training, exercises, maneuvers, and firing, and the fulfillment of the various missions and internationalist duty show the advances achieved by the DAAFAR in operational, combat and political training and the raised political, moral and disciplined state of its troops. He concluded: [begin recording]

On this moment of historic remembrance, our mind and hearts are with the valiant comrades who gave their lives in defense of the fatherland and socialism here in Cuba and in other parts of the world. By their example, they show the path to follow. In our daily life, we have a permanent pledge to fulfill, to translate the heroism of Giron into our daily lives. This is their mandate and our obligation. [applause]

Seventeen years since the historic victory of Giron, we repeat to the PCC, the commander in chief, the FAR minister and the working people, that today, just as yesterday and always, they can count on the DAAFAR for whatever purpose wherever and however we are needed. Long live the eternal heroes of the fatherland! [applause, shouts of viva] Long live the FAR! [shouts of viva] Long live the PCC! [shouts of viva] Long live our commander in chief! [shouts of viva] Fatherland or death, we will win! [applause, shouts of venceremos] [end recording]

CUBAN-POLISH COOPERATION TALKS BEGIN IN HAVANA

FL141617Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1517 GMT 14 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The seventh meeting of the Cuban-Polish Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation has opened at the Sierra Meastra Hotel in Havana. The heads of the two delegations, Diocles Torralba and Tadeusz Pyka, deputy chairmen of the Cuban and Polish councils of ministers, respectively, made speeches in the opening session. Participating in the meeting are vice ministers and other officials from various agencies.

Since the creation of the commission 18 years ago, Cuba and Poland have been conducting a program of cooperation in different branches which is characterized by the fraternal ties uniting the two socialist states. This cooperation manifests itself in equipment for the sugar and paper industries, shipyards, construction materials as well as direct dealings between related organizations. In addition to the mentioned subjects, this meeting will take up other avenues of cooperation.

CUBAN, HUNGARIAN UNIVERSITIES SIGN ACCORD

FL142356Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 14 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Budapest--The Karl Marx University of Economic Sciences of Hungary and Havana University have broadened their cooperation through a 3-year agreement signed today in this capital. By virtue of the document signed by Hungarian University Rector Ivan Berend and Havana University Vice Rector Fernando Rojas, economists and professors from the Karl Marx University will teach classes in Cuba on methodology and teaching in this field. Professors and specialists from the Karl Marx University will carry out scientific research projects on Latin American economics while their Cuban counterparts will travel to Hungary to learn about Hungarian experiences in the sphere of course organization, teaching and science. The two universities will exchange publications and monographs. They will inform each other about scientific events which they organize and invite each other to participate. Systematic relations have existed between these higher education institutions for 4 years.

RISQUET PARTICIPATES IN ANGOLAN EVENTS

FL180146Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Hundreds of Cubans and Angolans have undertaken a day of voluntary work in the port of Luanda honoring the anniversary of the Angolan youth and the day of the Cuban militiaman. Various port tasks, among them the unloading of merchandise, were undertaken during the day.

PCC Central Committee Secretariat member Jorge Risquet Valdes and Manuel Pedro Pacavira, MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee member and agriculture minister, participated in the tasks.

MALMIERCA RECEIVES HUNGARIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER

FL141140Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has received Karoly Szarka, deputy foreign minister of the People's Republic of Hungary, who is visiting our country at the invitati of the Foreign Ministry. Present at the talks were Hungarian Ambassador to Cuba Mr Jeno Jakus, Vice Foreign Minister Jose Viera, Sidroc Ramos, director of the Socialist Countries Department, and Pedro Garcia, an official of the Cuban Foreign Ministry.

ALMEIDA MEETS WITH ANGOLAN HEALTH MINISTER

FL152037Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Apr 78 FL

[Text] In Santiago de Cuba Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida, Politburo member and vice president of the Council of State, has met with Domingos Coelho de Cruz, People's Republic of Angola health minister. At the meeting subjects of mutual interest were discussed in the areas of public health, education and the history of the two countries.

The Angolan minister stated that he was impressed with the health system in our country, which shows the revolution's concern to take public health to all levels of the nation. He added that he gained a great experience by this visit. He also referred to his knowledge of Cuban history acquired on his tour of various museums of the country, especially in the city of the birth of the revolution, and stated that on his visit to the pioneer palace in Segundo Frente municipality he observed the childrens' training.

JESUS MONTANE RECEIVES ANGOLAN WOMEN'S DELEGATION

FL151850Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1723 GMT 15 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Jesus Montane Oropesa, PCC Central Committee member and chief of its mass organization department, has received the Angolan Women's Organization--OMA--delegation headed by national coordinator Maria Carlos. Also in the delegation are (Julia Aginda), in charge of OMA [words indistinct], (Lucia Pain), Cabinda Province coordinator, and (Julia de Souza) and (Magdalena Sans), both members of the provincial directorates of Cuanza Sul and Canza Norte.

At the meeting held in a cordial atmosphere, Montane briefed them on the operation of the department he heads and its relationship with mass organizations, especially with the Cuban Women's Federaion--FMC. The Angolan delegation is accompanied by Esther Veliz, foreign affairs secretary of the FMC National Directorate, and (Nelsi Iglesias), official in this area.

MACHADO VENTURA CHAIRS PIONEER EVENT

FL152111Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Apr 78 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura has presided over the closing ceremony of the Pioneer spring contests which was held for 5 days at the Jose Marti camp in Havana City. The event included the fifth Pioneer sports contest and the first swimming cup, which was won by Camaguey Province. Havana City Province was second, followed by Matanzas Province.

INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES HOLDS PLENUM

FL141555Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1503 GMT 14 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Fernando Vecino Alegret, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister of higher education, has chaired the first plenum of researchers of the Institute of Livestock Agricultural Sciences of Havana, which was held at the center in San Jose de Las Lajas. Participating in the meeting were 500 researchers who work at the Institute of Animal Science, National Institute of Agricultural Science and the National Center of Animal Health.

During the plenum, Dr Efrain Abreu, rector of the Institute of Livestock-Agricultural Sciences of Havana, read the report on last year's accomplishments which includes principal scientific and technical gains. Cesar Garcia, vice minister of higher education for research work, made the closing remarks. He said the plenum had afforded the opportunity to examine profoundly the institute's activities in the field of research work.

HART CLOSES SAIZ ARTISTIC BRIGADE MEETING

FL151925Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Armando Hart, Politburo member and culture minister, has made the closing remarks at the second national meeting of the "Hermanos Saiz" young artists and writers brigade from which a new era begins leading to its structural improvement and into other artistic manifestations. In his remarks, the culture minister stated that this entity needs the brigade members' support to comply with its responsibilities and find solutions which will allow it to obtain better results in the organization and development of the Cuban cultural movement.

He pointed out that this has been deeply tied to the political, social progressive and revolutionary movement in the past century and in the present, and that the history of the national culture reflects the political pledge, as has been shown in figures such as Heredia, Marti, Martinez Villena, the brothers Luis and Sergio Saiz, Marinello and others. He added that the ideas of this pledge is ingrained in the brigade's work.

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